

## CLAIMS

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B2*
1. An immunoassay specific for mammalian  $\gamma$ -BNP derivatives, characterized in that it uses the first antibody reactive with mammalian  $\alpha$ -BNP and the second antibody reactive with mammalian prepro-BNP or  $\gamma$ -BNP derivatives and not  $\alpha$ -BNP.
2. The immunoassay of claim 1, wherein the  $\gamma$ -BNP derivatives comprise the amino acid sequence shown by the amino acid Nos. 27-102 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
3. The immunoassay of claim 1, wherein the second antibody is specific for the amino acid sequence shown by the amino acid Nos. 27-102 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
4. The immunoassay of ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein at least one of the first and the second antibodies is detectably labeled or immobilized.
5. The immunoassay of ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the detectable label is a radioactive isotope, an enzyme, a fluorescent substance, a luminescent substance, or a particle.
6. A kit for immunoassay specific for mammalian  $\gamma$ -BNP derivatives, characterized in that it comprises the first antibody reactive with mammalian  $\alpha$ -BNP and the second antibody reactive with mammalian prepro-BNP or  $\gamma$ -BNP derivatives and not  $\alpha$ -BNP.
7. The kit of claim 6, wherein at least one of the first and the second antibodies is detectably labeled or immobilized.
8. The kit of claim 7 which further comprises a means for detecting the label.

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